



# ORLEANS

## Barnstable County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Orleans, incorporated in 1797, is a resort community on the outer Cape whose European history begins in 1642 with the first permanent settlement established by Nicholas Snow and his family. Settlers had purchased rights to the town from Mattaguason, sachem of the Manamoyick Indians.

The Colonial economy was built on agriculture, especially corn, rye and wheat, plus the growing of hay and vegetables. In the 18th century commercial fishing and shellfishing supplemented local incomes and residents worked on herring boats and went after whales. By the 19th century, coastal packets from Boston were being serviced and several windmills created power resources in the town, but the heaviest reliance by residents was on cod and mackerel fishing. Life long residents recall that in those days the very old and the very young farmed, while all the able-bodied men fished. Fishing in Orleans declined as competition from larger boats and larger ports grew, but the town had established a commercial importance on the Cape as a market center for other communities, that continues into the 20th century.

Small businesses like the Mayo Duck Farm that produced 50,000 ducklings in 1918 were welcomed by the town, but the major modern change in Orleans was spurred by the impact of summer development. This resort home development, which accelerated between 1915 and 1940 and still continues, has had the greatest effect on the town and in turn has supported increasing commercial development along Route 6.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, at the elbow of Cape Cod. Bordered by Eastham on the north, the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Chatham and Harwich on the south, and Brewster and Cape Cod Bay on the west. Orleans is about 22 miles from Hyannis; 88 miles southeast of Boston; 93 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island; and 270 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 21.06 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 14.14 sq. miles

**Population:** 5,838

**Density:** 413 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Chatham WSMO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....30.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Orleans, Chatham, Harwich

## Regional Planning Agency

Cape Cod Commission

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Barnstable-Yarmouth



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 240-3700

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Executive

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1797

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,558		
Democrats	732	16.1	%
Republicans	1,354	29.7	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,472	54.2	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Orleans town, Barnstable County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	6,341	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	6,341	100.0
Male.....	2,958	46.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	49	0.8
Female.....	3,383	53.4	Mexican.....	9	0.1
Under 5 years.....	159	2.5	Puerto Rican.....	3	-
5 to 9 years.....	227	3.6	Cuban.....	9	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	305	4.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	28	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	260	4.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,292	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	144	2.3	White alone.....	6,150	97.0
25 to 34 years.....	390	6.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	706	11.1	Total population.....	6,341	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	930	14.7	In households.....	6,177	97.4
55 to 59 years.....	466	7.3	Householder.....	3,087	48.7
60 to 64 years.....	470	7.4	Spouse.....	1,524	24.0
65 to 74 years.....	1,144	18.0	Child.....	1,064	16.8
75 to 84 years.....	841	13.3	Own child under 18 years.....	787	12.4
85 years and over.....	299	4.7	Other relatives.....	151	2.4
Median age (years).....	55.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	43	0.7
18 years and over.....	5,468	86.2	Nonrelatives.....	351	5.5
Male.....	2,500	39.4	Unmarried partner.....	116	1.8
Female.....	2,968	46.8	In group quarters.....	164	2.6
21 years and over.....	5,361	84.5	Institutionalized population.....	75	1.2
62 years and over.....	2,597	41.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	89	1.4
65 years and over.....	2,284	36.0	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	974	15.4	Total households.....	3,087	100.0
Female.....	1,310	20.7	Family households (families).....	1,772	57.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	456	14.8
One race.....	6,278	99.0	Married-couple family.....	1,524	49.4
White.....	6,187	97.6	With own children under 18 years.....	322	10.4
Black or African American.....	37	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	186	6.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	11	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	106	3.4
Asian.....	34	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	1,315	42.6
Asian Indian.....	1	-	Householder living alone.....	1,147	37.2
Chinese.....	23	0.4	Householder 65 years and over.....	676	21.9
Filipino.....	4	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	493	16.0
Japanese.....	3	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,557	50.4
Korean.....	2	-	Average household size.....	2.00	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.55	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	1	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	5,073	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,087	60.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	1,986	39.1
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	1,756	34.6
Some other race.....	9	0.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	63	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	12.5	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	3,087	100.0
White.....	6,244	98.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,333	75.6
Black or African American.....	54	0.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	754	24.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	37	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.12	(X)
Asian.....	39	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.64	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	32	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	127
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	12
Federal (Section 8):	6



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Orleans is situated on Cape Cod, a 65-mile long sandy peninsula comprising Barnstable County. The Cape has excellent highway, rail, bus and air connections to other parts of New England. Air, bus, and passenger rail service expand during the summer months to accommodate the large numbers of tourists.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are the Cape Highway, U.S. Route 6, and State Routes 6A, 28, and 39.

### Rail

There is no freight rail service, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island is easily accessible.

### Bus

Orleans is a member of the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA), which operates a b-bus demand response service.

### Other

The Chatham Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Chatham, has a 3,001' long asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Scheduled airline flights are available at the Hyannis Municipal Airport in the nearby town of Barnstable.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

French Cable Station Museum in Orleans

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Orleans Convalescent & Retirement Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Physical Therapy & Rehab. Center

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.